

Bungalow (1910-1940)



Historical Origins



The Idaho Building

Photograph Courtesy of St. Hubert's Isle



1893 Chicago World's Fair

Photograph Courtesy of Ithaca College

The word Bungalow comes from the Bengali word *bangla*, which is a small cottage with a veranda that was used in tropical areas where they had to cope with hot climates. The Bungalow has nineteenth century British and Dutch influences from Asian countries where shallow-*pitched* roofs with wide overhangs and porches shielded the walls from the sun. This popular form was used in America before air conditioning became commonplace in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

A Bungalow called the Idaho Building premiered at the Columbian Exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Early developments began in California during the early 1900s by Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene. They incorporated the influences of the British Arts and Crafts movement, which favored the use of natural materials, along with the avoidance of unnecessary, mass-produced ornamentation in architecture, furniture, and the decorative arts.

Magazines such as *The Architect*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and Gustav Stickley's 1901-1916 *The Craftsman* promoted the bungalow as a modern house that embodied an honest, simpler lifestyle. Gustav Stickley, a furniture maker and architect who heralded the Arts and Crafts movement believed that



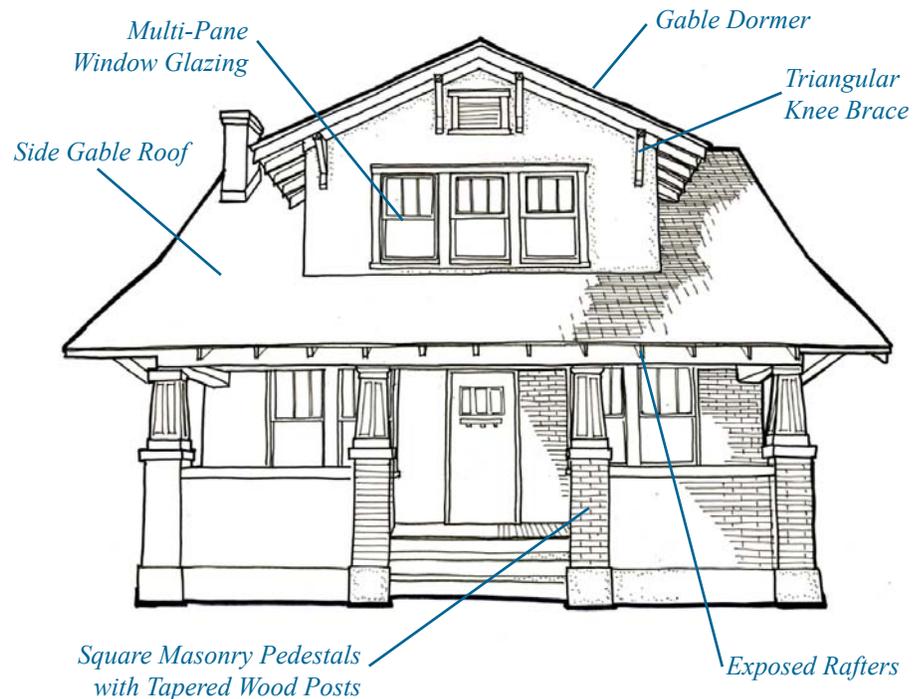
Arts and Crafts Home Located in Wasena

a house should be built in harmony with nature, have an open floor plan, built in bookcases and benches, and abundant natural light – all common features of the Bungalow. The house to the left is the only known example of a Stickley house in Roanoke.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., along with numerous other pattern book companies, published plans for the Craftsman Bungalow which spurred nationwide popularity of the design due in large part to its low cost and easy maintenance. The Wasena and Melrose-Rugby neighborhoods in southwest and northwest Roanoke contain a number of these homes. However, by the early 1930s, the Bungalow began to lose its appeal when the Colonial Revival movement gained momentum.

Essential Elements

- One-and-a-half story; simple horizontal lines.
- Low-*pitched* projecting roof with exposed roof *rafters* and triangular *knee braces* and a *gabled* or shed dormer.
- Prominent low, broad front porch supported by square masonry pedestals with straight or tapered wood posts; occasionally solid brick or stucco supports are found.
- Multi-paned windows and door *glazing* in a variety of geometric shapes.



Massing & Roof Forms

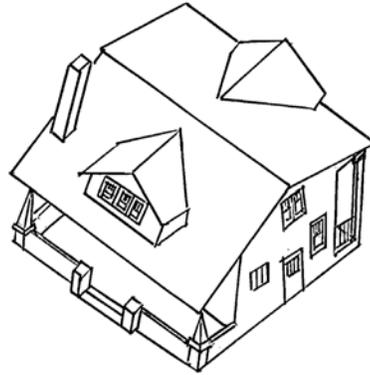


Intersecting Front Gables



Chimney

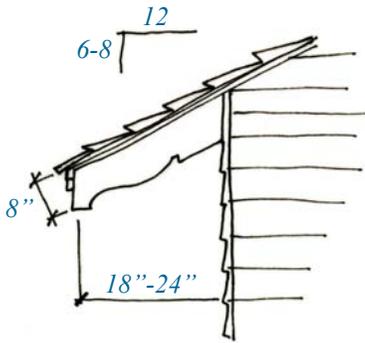
Though variations exist, the Bungalow is basically a *gable-roofed* cottage with a prominent front porch. Square or rectangular in plan, Bungalows are compact with either a side-gabled or front-gabled roof with wide *eaves*. The *pitch* of the main roof typically ranges from 6:12 to 8:12 and dominates the Bungalow's horizontal silhouette. A large single dormer with a gabled or shed roof typically is located on the main roof. An exterior end chimney usually projects through the eaves. The porch roof is slightly shallower with a 3:12 to 5:12 pitch. This shape sometimes varies with two intersecting low-pitched front-gables or a *hipped* or pyramidal roof.



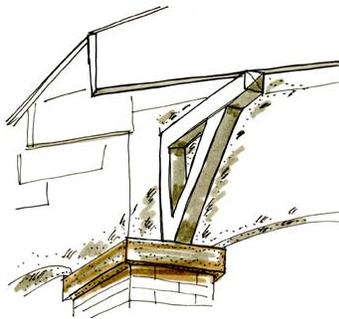
Side Gabled Roof with Gabled Dormer

Eaves

Triangular *knee braces* and deep overhanging *eaves* with exposed beam and *rafter tails* are Bungalow hallmarks. Although the predominate type of eave in the Bungalow style is the open eave with exposed rafters tails, eaves can also be boxed.



Exposed Rafter Tail



Triangular Knee Brace



Exposed Rafter Tails and Triangular Knee Braces

Wall Cladding

Masonry (stone, brick and cobblestone) and wood siding (with 4 to 8 inch exposure) are the major construction material used. Dormers and *gable ends* often feature wood shingles or stucco.



Wire Cut Brick



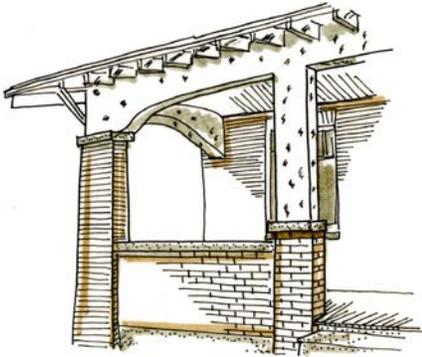
Wood Siding Paired with Shingled Dormer and Gable Ends



Brick Paired with Shingled Dormer and Gable Ends

Porches

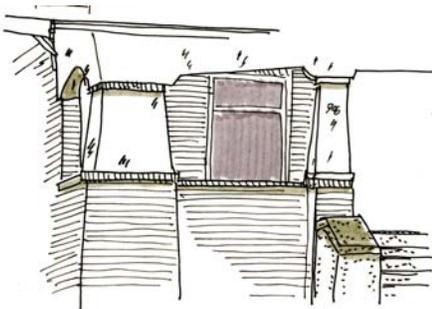
Bungalows typically have full-width front porches supported by a variety of porch supports that are unique to the Craftsman tradition. It is common to find massive brick pedestals with thick tapered wood *columns*; occasionally the columns will be paired on top of the pier. These piers and columns can also be constructed of brick, stone, concrete or a combination of materials, including stucco. Brick knee-walls capped with concrete *coping* usually span between the piers. Other variations will feature wood railings with 2 inch square *balusters* closely spaced together or a panel of shingles. Bungalow porches are typically accessed by concrete steps that match the foundation that sometimes feature flanking brick and concrete sidewalls.



Brick Pier and Stuccoed Post and Porch Entablature with Brick Knee-Wall Capped with Concrete



Brick Piers with Concrete Capping and Shingle Panel Railing



Brick Pedestal and Stucco Post with Brick Knee-Wall

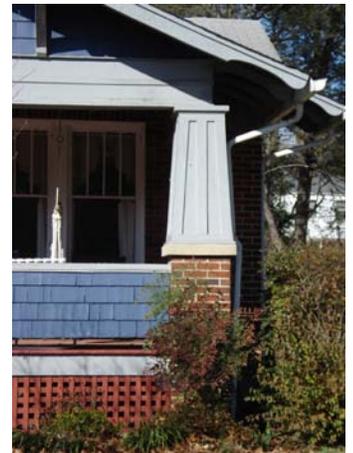
Brick Piers with Thick Tapered Wood Columns



Triangular Knee Brace

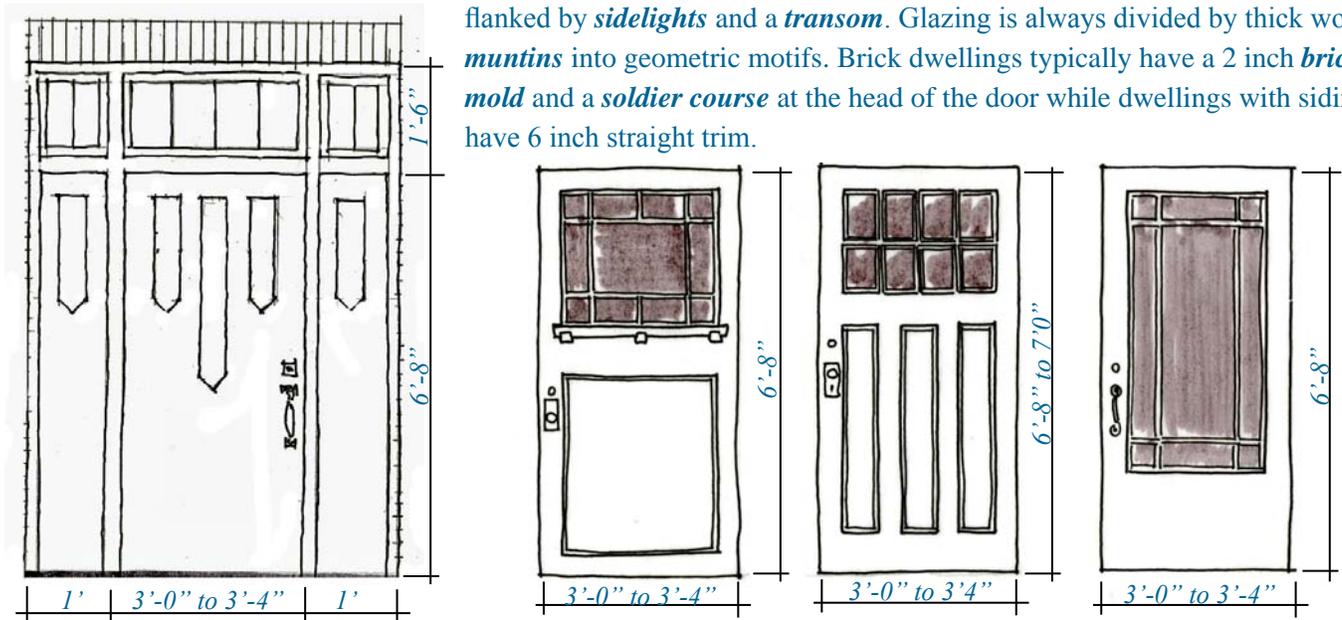
Steps with Flanking Concrete Walls

Shingle Panel Railing



Doors

Bungalows feature a variety of doors that reflect both the Craftsman and Prairie styles. In most cases, wood panel doors with upper *glazing* are flanked by *sidelights* and a *transom*. Glazing is always divided by thick wood *muntings* into geometric motifs. Brick dwellings typically have a 2 inch *brickmold* and a *soldier course* at the head of the door while dwellings with siding have 6 inch straight trim.

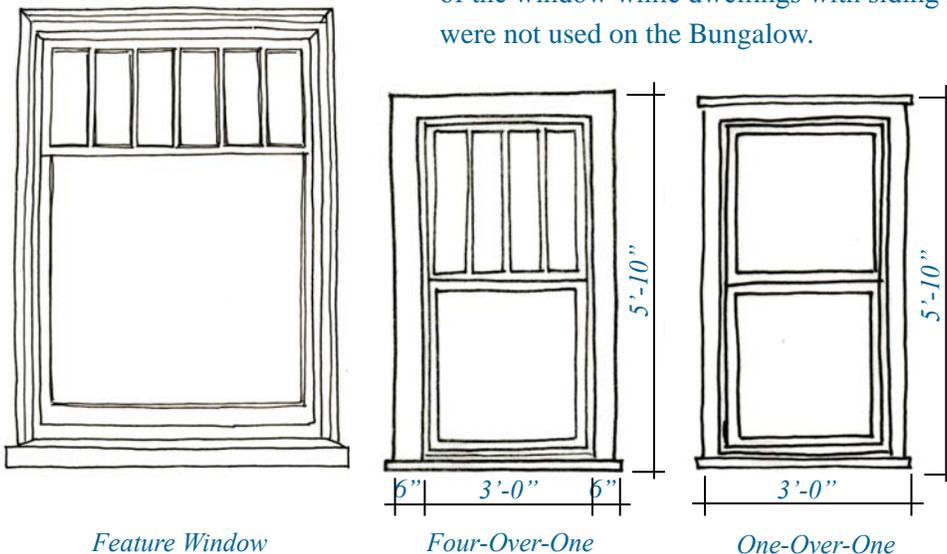


Typical Doors found on the Bungalow

Windows

Bungalows were designed to take full advantage of natural lighting, thus reducing the need for artificial light. Groupings of windows allow for ample interior lighting, as well as exterior views, which accounts for the array of paired or triple windows and *feature* windows that light Bungalows.

A variety of *multi-light double-hung* and *casement* windows occur on Bungalows. Three-over-one, four-over-one, and five-over-one double-hung windows are the most common window configurations. Sometimes casement windows that feature small panes divided into various patterns are used. Brick dwellings typically have a 2 inch *brickmold* and a *soldier course* at the head of the window while dwellings with siding have 6 inch straight trim. Shutters were not used on the Bungalow.



Feature Window

Four-Over-One

One-Over-One

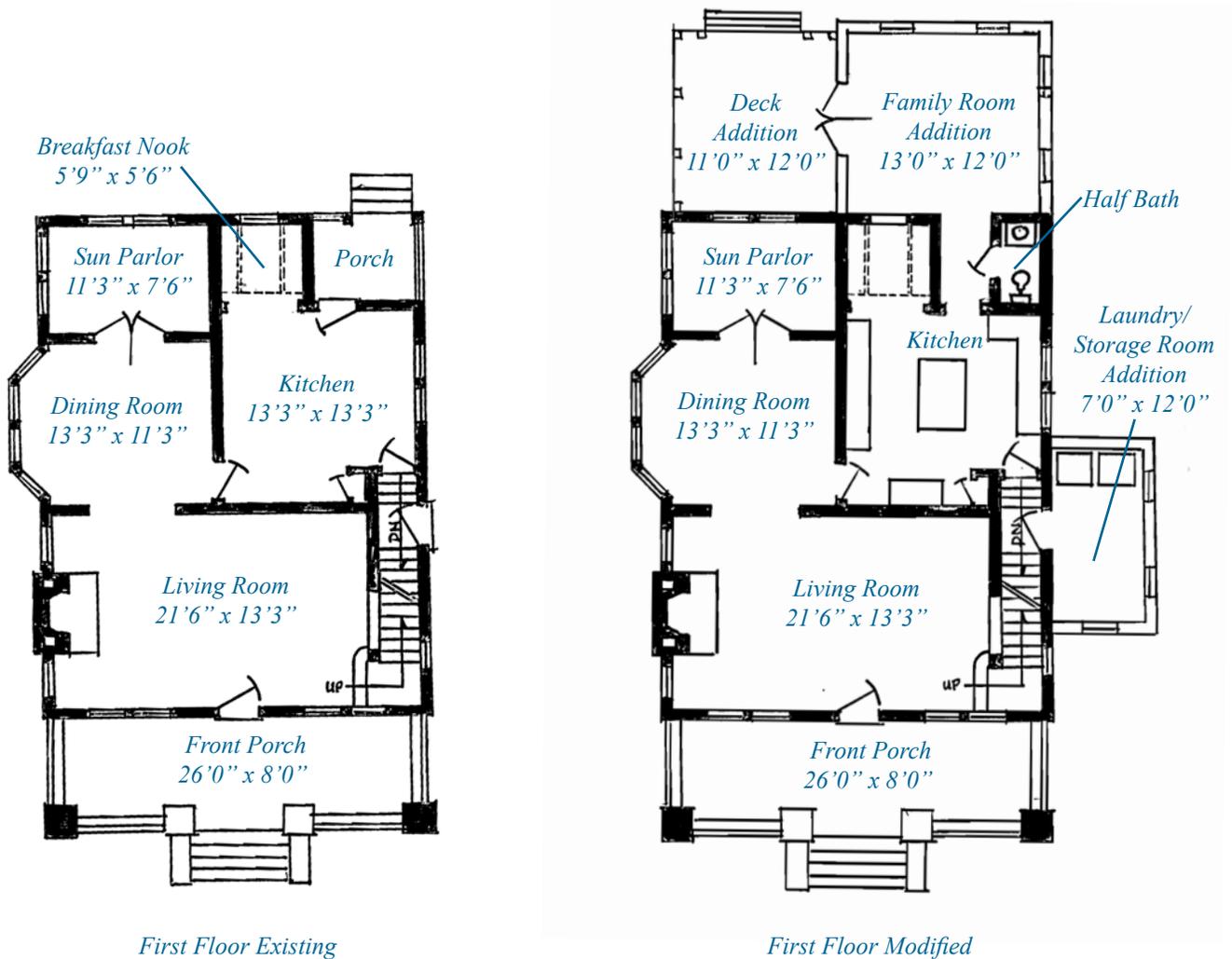


Three-Over-One Double Hung Windows with Decorative Dormer Window

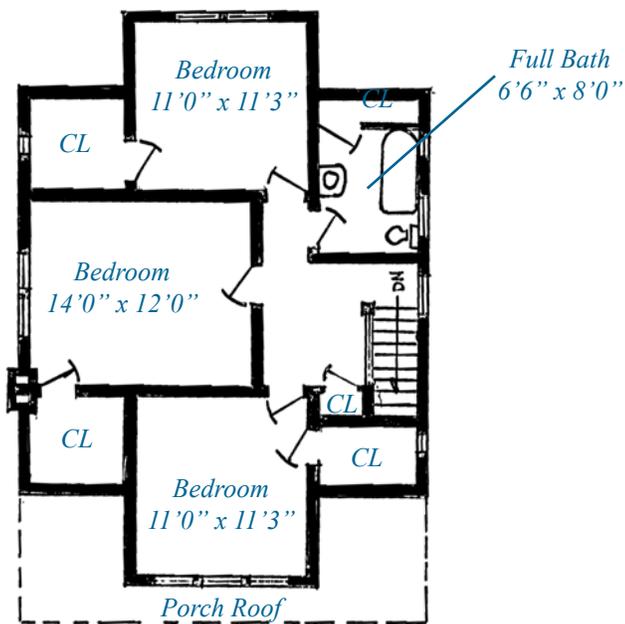
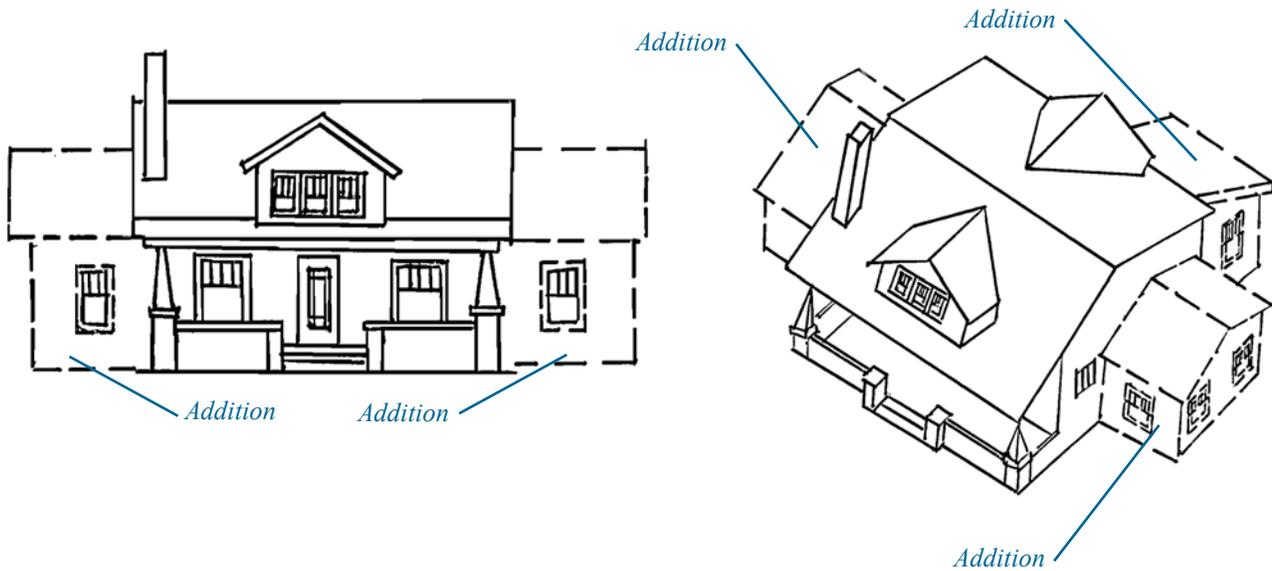
Additions

Additions can be sensitively located to the rear of the building or with smaller side wings. New additions should be designed as secondary elements that respect the overall *massing* and scale of the original house. An addition should never be larger or wider than the main residence. Additions should be designed and built so that the form and character of the primary residence will remain intact if the addition is ever removed.

An addition should respect the stylistic influences that are found on the Bungalow. Roofing forms and materials should match those of the original structure if possible, with *low-pitched* roofs that are subordinate to the primary roof line. Windows should be similar to original in type and style, employing wooden *double-hung sashes*. Similar exterior finish materials should be used when possible. A list of appropriate materials specific to the Bungalow is provided at the end of this section. More information on additions can be found within the New Construction section of this document.



Reallocation of Existing Square Footage and Addition to a Bungalow

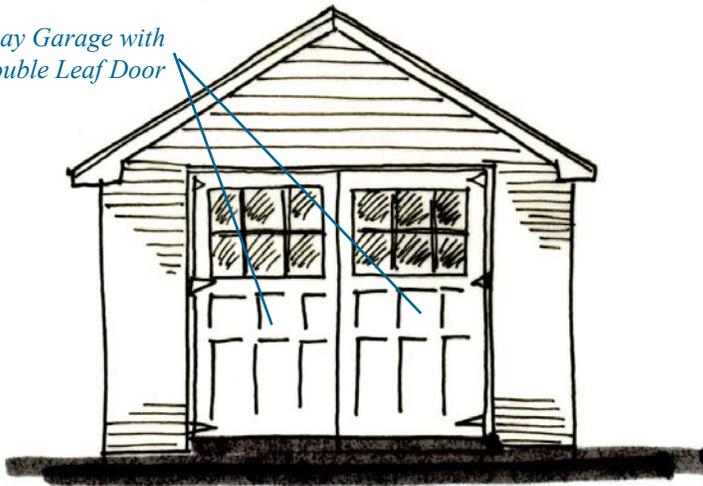


Second Floor Existing

Bungalow additions are most appropriate on the first floor as it is difficult to tie two-story additions into their unique roof forms. The unique roof forms of the Bungalow often allow for spacious rooms and closets that typically do not require expansion like many of the other architectural forms constructed during the same time period. The illustration to the left is an example of an unmodified second floor plan.

Garages

One Bay Garage with
Double Leaf Door



Like many other early twentieth century residences, Bungalow houses also had matching garages; most garages were one *bay* wide, just wide enough for one vehicle. The garages were often brick that matched the house with double-leaf wood doors that pulled open. The roof *pitch* is usually lower than the main house. The garages were located right off the rear corner of the house at the end of double strips of concrete.

Painting a Bungalow



Wood trim and features on the Bungalow were painted or stained colors that harmonized with nature. Bungalows used contrasting colors to accent their architectural features. For example, if the wood window *sashes* were painted white, contrasting colors such as deep browns or oranges were used on the window trim. Greens are also good colors for wood trim. Favorite colors for lap siding or stucco were pale yellows and ochres. Unpainted brick should never be painted as it could drastically alter the home's original character and trap moisture inside walls.

Maintaining Character Defining Features



Exposed Rafter Tails

One of the chief principles of Bungalow design was the importance of light and openness. This harmony between dwelling and nature takes the form of wide open porches, wood structural members and generous windows. The Bungalow's roots in the Arts & Crafts movement accounts for the prevalence of windows as character-defining features. As a result, Bungalows may feature an assortment of art glass and *casement* windows, as well as *double-hung* windows with distinctive *muntin* patterns.

Exposed *rafter tails* are signature details that embellish the *eaves* and dormers of every Bungalow, providing a rustic Arts & Crafts touch, and eliminating the *soffits* and fascia boards common on other house types. All too often the *eaves* of many Bungalows have been covered with vinyl or aluminum wrapping, obscuring an essential design feature. Since exposed *rafter tails* - which are made of wood - remain unprotected from the elements, they are vulnerable to the deterioration and accelerated aging common to exposed wood surfaces. Keep *rafter tails* painted and gutters unclogged to ensure the longevity of *eaves* and *rafter tails*. Finally, the front porch should never be enclosed with siding, nor should it be removed or altered.

Appropriate Materials

- *Roofs:* Fiberglass shingles (architectural grade), cementitious shingles, slate and faux slate materials, or clay tile with flat or barrel profile as appropriate.
- *Wall Cladding:* Smooth finish wood or fiber-cement boards, 4 to 8 inch lap exposure. Smooth finish or wire-cut brick in common *bond*. Light sand-finish stucco.
- *Porch Ceilings:* Tongue-and-groove wood or composite boards, or beaded-profile plywood.
- *Columns:* Solid brick posts or brick piers with tapered square posts. Architecturally correct proportions and details in wood, fiberglass, or composite material, as appropriate to the porch type.
- *Railings:* Milled wood top and bottom rails with thick square *balusters* (2" x 2" nominal dimension). Other variations are common.
- *Doors:* Wood, fiberglass or steel with traditional stile-and-rail proportions, raised panel profiles, and *glazing*.
- *Windows:* Wood, aluminum-clad wood, or vinyl (vinyl is not allowed in the H-1 or H-2 Historic Districts). True divided light or *simulated divided light* (SDL) *sash* with traditional *muntin* profile.
- *Trim:* Wood, composite, or polyurethane millwork.
- *Shutters:* Shutters were not used on the Bungalow.



Gallery of Examples

